

AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket No.: Q65791

Page 29, please replace the first full paragraph with the following new one:

P5
The nonwoven fabric prepared by the above method has a substantially unilayered structure, an apparent total surface area of fibers per a surface density of 20 m² or more, and a thickness of 0.1 mm or less. Therefore, when the nonwoven fabric is used as the separator, a battery capable of uniformly holding the electrolyte throughout the separator, and having a low inner pressure and a high capacity can be assembled. Further, a battery having a good electrolyte-holding capacity, particularly, a long-term electrolyte-holding capacity, and thus a long-term lifetime, can be assembled.

Page 34, please replace the ^{fourth} full paragraph with the following new one:

E.S. 4/29/08

AL
Then, the sulfonated nonwoven fabric was calendared to produce a unilayered-structural separator (surface density = 40 g/m², thickness = 0.10 mm, apparent total surface area = 29.8 m², the fibers being substantially two-dimensionally arranged, no bundle of the fine fibers).

Page 35, please replace the second full paragraph with the following new one:

A2
Then, 20 mass% of the polypropylene-high density polyethylene mixed fine fibers, 50 mass% of sheath-core type composite fibers, and 30 mass% of polypropylene high-modulus fibers were mixed, and the procedure of Example 1 was repeated to produce a unilayered-structural separator (surface density = 40 g/m², thickness = 0.10 mm, apparent total surface area = 29.2 m², the fibers being substantially two-dimensionally arranged, no bundle of the fine fibers) wherein the high density polyethylene components of the polypropylene-high density polyethylene mixed fine fibers and the fusible components of the fusible fibers were fused, and sulfonic acid groups were introduced onto the fiber surfaces.

Page 35-36, please replace the third full paragraph with the following new one: